

Visible Eagle

Visualizing John Philip Sousa's March *Invisible Eagle*


John Philip Sousa's (1854-1932) marches have been an embodiment of patriotism for Americans since the late 19th century. Dedicated to the Pan-American Exposition held in Buffalo, New York during 1901, *Invisible Eagle* is considered to be one of Sousa's best marches.

On the right, three different representations allow students to examine and explore the music. The top visualization presents a MIDI piano/roll of the notes; the center version presents a spectrogram that depicts the overtone series, as well as volume; and the bottom version presents the amplitude. Each provides a different way of seeing that affords exploration and new understandings.

This transcription of *Invisible Eagle* is the result of a project in MUS 243: Introduction to Music Education Technology. Working from a manuscript from The Sousa Archive and Center for American Music (SACAM), the students created a new score and parts edition with inputs from SACAM staff, faculty members at UIUC, as well as graduate student band directors.

The SACAM is part of the University of Illinois Library and University Archives, and it serves the university by acquiring and preserving significant archival records and historical artifacts in multiple media formats that document America's local and national music history and its diverse cultures. More information is available online at:
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/sousa/>

Credits:
This diagram is a revision of the *VisualEyes* project created by Keith Pitner and Jenina Kenessey. The revision was completed by Matthew Thibault, text by Chee Kang Koh and Mathew.

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